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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application

M. MORI et al

Serial No. 09/506,808

Filed: February 18, 2000

For: AUTOMATIC AUCTION METHOD



Group Art Unit: 2764

Examiner: N. Nguyen

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 15, 2000

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1 and add claims 16-33 as set forth below.

--16. An auction method for performing an auction on a network, comprising the steps of:

providing information on a product to be auctioned via the network;

collecting a desired price for the product and a maximum margin of the price acceptable to pay proposed by each bidder via the network; and

if the desired price proposed by one of the bidders coincides with the desired price proposed by another bidder